

Application # 09/667,408      Multifunction Dataport      Reply to Office Action of 11/02/2006

Claims

Claims 30 and 31 are revised while the claims 32 to 58 remain as filed earlier.

30. (revised) A multifunction dataport apparatus with multiple interfaces that is connected between a digital services network, including the internet and an intranet, and a utility user's household, said dataport comprising:

- a) a utility meter interface configured to communicate with a meter for recording the utility usage of said household of a utility delivered to said household and
- b) a network interface configured to communicate at megahertz rates with said digital network.
- c) a household interface configured to communicate at megahertz rates with household devices of said utility user and
- d) a computer disposed within said dataport configured to store, process and encrypt data and other communications from said interfaces and.
- e) said computer is configured to transmit identification codes unique to said dataport to said utilities.

31. (revised) A multifunction dataport as recited in claim 30 comprising the means wherein:

- a) said network interface is adapted to process data at broadband rates in excess of one megabit per second with said digital communication networks
- b) and said computer is programmed to process digital data at said broadband rates and function as an Internet router by providing high speed switching between Internet users.
- c) Said dataport is programmed to forward data packets between local, regional and national digital service providers and function as an Internet router.

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